

# Unconventional Description of Travel in the Caribbean

## Cruising Through the Spanish Main

A Trip to the West Indies—Picturesque Bit of Civilization in Colombia

THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP. By Sir Frederick Treves. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

THE double fascination of a trip through the Caribbean Sea is splendidly conveyed in these two books. The rich tropical scenery is not the only attractive feature of the West Indian islands and the neighboring mainland of South America. These countries are also rich in romantic historical memories. The Spanish Main was the favorite haunt of the pirates and buccaners who constantly attacked and looted the Spanish treasure ships during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Both Sir Frederick Treves and Mr. Graham relieve their descriptive passages with frequent digressions into the more striking and picturesque episodes of Latin-American history.

Sir Frederick gives a full account of the West Indies. He never falls into the commonplace jargon of the average guidebook. One is reminded of Stevenson and Conrad in this typical observation about the beauty of the tropical ocean:

### Colors of the Tropical Sea

"The sea assumes strange and unexpected tints. It may be violet, purple or maroon, with streaks of lettuce-green or forget-me-not blue, or may show a stretch of brilliant luster such as shines on a beetle's back, or may shimmer into a lake of lapis lazuli. In calm days the water over the reef will be lilac or even claret colored, or may take the hue of the nether side of a mushroom, while within the reef is that vivid green which can be looked down into from the stern of a steamer among the coiling eddies thrown up by the screw. It is, indeed, in these West Indian islands that

"The rainbow lives in the curve of the sand."

The author is equally skillful in recording his impressions of the peoples who inhabit these wonderful islands. He finds them a mixed race, with the negro element strongly predominating. He describes the West Indians as good-natured, lively and talkative, with an incurable propensity to laziness, which would probably appear in any race blessed with such easy surroundings. The natives of the West Indies are scarcely compelled to earn their bread in the sweat of their brows. The warm climate reduces the demands for fuel and clothing to a minimum and bountiful nature provides food in abundance.

The luxuriance of West Indian vegetation is amazing. Sir Frederick gives the following vivid picture of an island jungle:

### A West Indian Jungle

"Through the dancing haze, through the languorous vapor that fills the forest as with the smoke of incense, through the fume of dead leaves, there comes a strange hum of life, the drone of insects, the rustle of the darting lizard, the flutter of hurrying wings.

"The vegetation of the tropics is prodigal and extravagant. A West Indian jungle shows to what excess the inheritance of leaf and stem may reach. Everything in this spendthrift forest is immoderate and exaggerated. The undergrowth is to a man what a plot of weed is to a hiding mouse, or what the woods of Brobdingnag were to Gulliver. Here is a creeper that covers half an acre. Here is a plant like a violet in its form, but it would shelter a child. Here is a geranium leaf, but it is shining and stiff and measures two feet across. This bush might be made of parsley were it not so magnified that it rises to the height of many feet. This thicket suggests a clump of bracken, yet such is the size of every fernlike fan that it would hide a dozen horsemen."

Nature in the Caribbean regions has its destructive as well as its beneficent aspects. The flourishing city of St. Pierre, in Martinique, was literally blotted off the face of the earth by a terrific volcanic eruption in 1902. Kingston, in Jamaica, was destroyed by an earthquake in 1907.

Parts of Sir Frederick's narrative read like a novel. He often sketches imaginary scenes from the past, and he draws liberally upon history for exciting tales of adventure. He shows us Drake and Hawkins setting out on their last ill-fated cruise through the Spanish Main, where the latter lost his life. He tells of the fierce battles in which the French and the British contended for the beautiful island of Saint Lucia. The following spirited portrait of a pirate captain dividing his loot might have come out of Treasure Island.

### A Pirate Chief

"The captain is enthroned on a stout sea-chest. He is an execrable-looking villain, with a bedraggled mustache and dirt-matted hair. His face is so weather-hardened and so tanned that his features may have been carved out of teak. One of his eyes has been gouged from its socket, while the lid of the other has been made to droop by reason of a saber cut, which has left a pink streak across his temple. He is dressed in a green satin coat with voluminous skirts; it is buttonless, yet shows shreds of lace, while the cuffs have been slit up to allow his hairy arms to burst through. He wears pantaloons of bullock-blood red, canary-colored stockings and heavy shoes. A couple of pistols stick out of the scabbard on his back. He is just now 'high in oath' and is directing the division of the silver with the point of a cutlass, deciding any finer detail by a throw of the dice."

Sir Frederick's book is full of

touches of wit and humor; the human element is never ignored in his observations and wanderings. Unlike some books of travel, it is literature of a high order. To read it is to experience an almost irresistible desire to drop all pressing business, pack up a few belongings and spend several months basking in the tropical West Indian sun, far from work and worries.

Mr. Graham, an Englishman who is familiar with the people and customs of South America, has always showed an inclination to leave the tourist's beaten path, strike out for himself and discover interesting out-of-the-way corners. In Cartagena and the Banks of the Sinu he explores a little known province of Colombia for the benefit of his readers.

Cartagena is one of the oldest cities in America, founded nearly four hundred years ago by one of the early Spanish conquerors. Even now its atmosphere is distinctly Spanish. It has been little touched by the bustling progress of the modern world. It is surrounded by immense walls. The streets are narrow and winding; the white and yellow houses have the numerous balconies and grating windows of a different age and civilization. The city is dominated by a magnificent cathedral.

### Picturesque Cartagena

"Of all the towns of the Department of Bolivar," says Mr. Graham, "Cartagena is the most picturesque. Not only is it the most Old World town of the department, but of the whole republic, and perhaps of the whole continent of South America. All day the old white town basks in the sun, and at the Ave Maria, when the innumerable church bells jangle and clang, a breeze springs up from off the sea. In the dark, winding streets, where there are houses over whose iron-studded doors are cut the crests of conquerors, men stand before the grating windows, as they do in Seville or in Cordoba, whispering the tale, so wearisome to any but the ear it is intended for, old as the world, but which will yet be fresh after a thousand years have passed away."

Cartagena has had a stirring history, despite its present aspect of Oriental calm. Mr. Graham describes at length the exploits of some of the early Spanish adventurers and outlines more briefly the experiences of Cartagena during the South American wars of independence.

Going back from the coast, along the River Sinu, the author finds a hardy race of cowboys, who tend the cattle of the vast ranges. The Sinu, like most South American rivers, is almost covered in places by the rich vegetation which springs from its banks.

Mr. Graham describes the transplanted bit of Old World civilization represented by Cartagena with a warm regard for its picturesque beauty and a faithful appreciation of its spirit.

## A New Woman

Novel by New York Writer Pictures Girl of the Age

THE SEVENTH ANGEL. By Alexander Black. Published by Harper and Bros., New York.

IT DAWNS on one as he reads Alexander Black's 'The Seventh Angel,' published by Harpers, that here is a novelist of a new school. He propounds a social or personal tenet through monologue or conversation, and then clears the air of the whole matter in a concise, swift passage or page of implication or consideration.

The title, 'The Seventh Angel,' allegorical, is derived from 'the seventh angel' of the Apocalypse; with its context in Scripture, it may be accepted as a sort of synonym for the late war and the babel that follows it to-day. The hero of this book, if so he may be called, is in reality the man with the baton seated over the orchestra. He reads the score and he swings the interpretative characters into their voicings and movements by beckonings of his imaginary stick. We have said that this is a novel of a new order. It is exceedingly of the age. Even if its plan has been copied before, it is in this story wholly twentieth century. It gives us the symbolical figure of a mind, rather than a man, brooding over the twisting currents of a great city's life as imaged in the rivulets of a little group of people, a mind detached from and yet one with the crossing, meeting, sympathetic and antagonistic movements of the members of the group.

Ann Forrest, in this novel, is the incarnate spirit of the hope of the world, consequent from the terror and despair of the war, necessary to the welfare of mankind. With extreme skill Black throws Ann almost violently against the primary creative forces of love, social equality and labor. Maxton, the scribe and on-looker, sketches himself and Ann early in the novel in this pencilled brief: "I was the Past listening to the clamor of the Present. Ann was the Future, asking, asking, waiting at the brink for the authentic starting signal."

It was Ann, in the opening pages of the novel, who leaped from a chair, followed a burly fellow across the floor of a café, smote him on the jaw with her fist and knocked him down. She had the gift of quick diagnosis and swift action. She had gone through a part of the war, in France, and she had acquired a vision of something new, perhaps glimmering on a far horizon, yet to be seen and apprehended if approached. To that vision she advanced straight on. Arrested on the street at night, on a false charge, she suffered imprisonment. She wanted to know why. When affairs concern her friend, the obvious yet elusive Irma, Ann exclaims: "Can't you see that I

want to understand the girl?" The "understand" is in italics. Ann stresses verbs that connote mind probing, questioning.

Ann Forrest was and is the arch type of the needed woman of the hour. We don't say century or year, but "hour," the inescapable now. Alexander Black has drawn her in a novel as fresh as sunlight, in a book that moves on irresistibly to the statement of a credo for humanity. The note that hums continually beneath the economic and personal tides of the novel is the simple one of divine friendship. Ann Forrest is something bigger than a mere girl just escaped into womanhood. She is the incarnate soul of courage, farseeing youth disdaining old bonds and whims, instant in service for the good of the world.

## History in Brief

Three Ready Reference Works in This Field

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD. By George Willis Botsford and Jay Barrett Botsford. Revised edition. Published by The Macmillan Company.

A SHORT SKETCH OF EUROPEAN HISTORY. By H. E. Marshall. Published by Frederick A. Stokes Company.

LITTLE HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR. By H. Vast. Translated by Raymond Weeks. Published by Henry Holt & Co.

THE reader who wishes to refresh his historical memory should find an abundance of helpful material in these three books. Each sums up in brief compass a long series of epochal events. By a process of rigorous compression non-essentials are eliminated and the most important occurrences are sketched in their barest outlines.

The most ambitious effort is the history of the world. This work, first published in 1917, is now revised and brought down to date by a supplementary account of the war and its aftermath. The authors are inclined to favor ancient and modern at the expense of medieval history. They deserve high praise for throwing over the old conception of history as a record of wars, conquests and dynasties. By emphasizing the economic and social characteristics of the ages which they describe they give a much more realistic picture of the human race in its various stages of development than the old-fashioned chronicler who sees in the experiences of the various countries little but a tangled skein of more or less related political intrigues. Messrs. Botsford are especially successful in the chapters dealing with Greek and Roman civilization, medieval life in town and country and the industrial revolution.

Mr. Marshall is more personal and vivid in his method. His book contains a number of the sayings and anecdotes traditionally ascribed to various chiefs and warriors. He devotes special attention to the period immediately following the break-up of the Roman Empire, which has been more or less neglected since Gibbon. The scope of Mr. Marshall's work is extended beyond the generally accepted boundaries of the Middle Ages; he also takes up in some detail the Renaissance and the Reformation. A chronological table at the end of the book is a useful source of reference for dates of important events.

M. Vast, who is honorary examiner for admission to the famous French military school, St. Cyr, has written an admirable, lucid and well proportioned history of the war, illustrated with a number of maps. After a sketch of the historical background of the world conflict, the author takes up the various campaigns and describes them in popular, non-technical fashion, bringing his work to a conclusion with the signing of the armistice.

## Psychical Study

Phases of Spiritism Discussed by Mr. Carrington

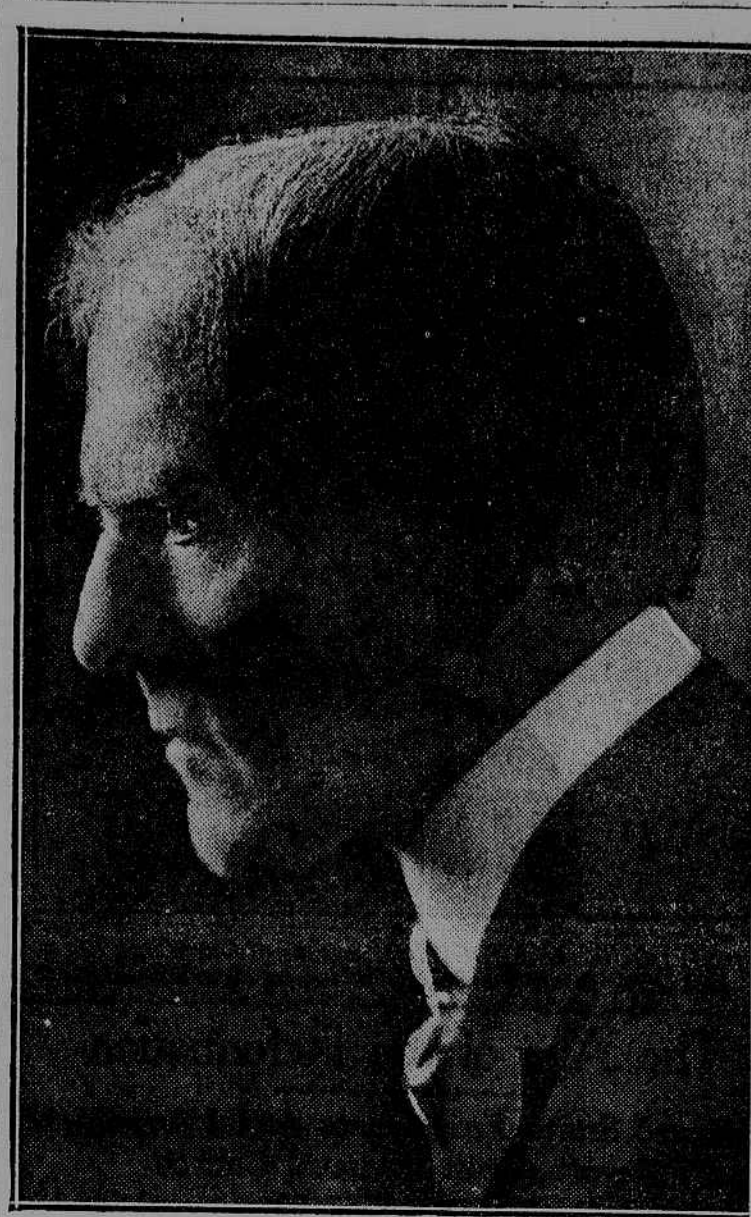
THE PROBLEMS OF PSYCHICAL RESEARCH. By Hereward Carrington. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

MR. CARRINGTON is one of the most distinguished modern authorities on the subject of spiritism. Believing that psychical research is a proper subject of scientific study, he is not open to the accusation of uncritical and excessive credulity. The evidence which he adduces in support of his theories is always carefully sifted and tested. His attitude toward the question of psychical manifestations is equally far removed from dogmatic skepticism and unquestioning belief. He sums up his position quite adequately in the following passage:

"While I freely admit that probably 98 per cent of so-called 'mediums' are fraudulent, I am equally emphatic in declaring that a residuum of genuine phenomena exists—that supernatural forces do occur, and that every one who investigates carefully enough and long enough will find them. This has been not only my own experience, but that of every person who has investigated this subject with an impartial mind for any length of time."

In the present book Mr. Carrington sums up the results of psychical research in many fields. The book is essentially theoretical; it emphasizes physical phenomena rather than psychical manifestations. "One of the most interesting chapters is devoted to psychic photography, and the whole volume is profusely illustrated with spirit photographs. Mr. Carrington discusses the uses and abuses of mind cure. Admitting the value of psychological suggestion as a help in curing certain disorders, he censures false healers for concentrating their attention upon suppressing symptoms rather than upon removing causes.

The book is extremely informative and well balanced; it unquestionably deserves to rank as one of the standard works on the subject.



ALEXANDER BLACK derives the title of his new book, 'The Seventh Angel,' from the Seventh Angel of the Apocalypse

## With Andrews in Mongolia

Outdoor Life in a Country Where Big Game Abounds

ACROSS MONGOLIAN PLAINS. By Roy Chapman Andrews. Published by D. Appleton & Co.

FASCINATING travel book is Across Mongolian Plains, by Roy Chapman Andrews. Mr. Andrews, who is associate curator of mammals in the American Museum of Natural History, wrote the book as an account of the museum's second Asiatic expedition, of which he was the leader.

As a naturalist Mr. Andrews was most interested in the fauna of the little known Mongolian plains and forests, but he did not neglect to notice the customs of the people who still live, for the most part, as in the days of the great Kublai Khan. The home of the Mongol—man, woman or child—is on horseback, just as it was in the Middle Ages, when the Mongols conquered all of Asia and threatened to invade Europe. Boys and girls alike are taught to ride while they are still so small that they have to be tied on the horses. And horse stealing, as in the western part of the United States in earlier times, is considered one of the worst possible crimes. Since there are no trees on which to string him up the horse thief is condemned to spend the rest of his life in a coffin prison.

The Mongol's love of an active, outdoor life, Mr. Andrews points out, gives him more in common with Western peoples than any other Oriental. His dress is barbaric in its splendor, but soap and water are quite outside his scheme of things. The lama religion, Mr. Andrews says, is responsible for much of the deterioration of the Mongol race. One or more sons in every family is dedicated to the priesthood.

Big game hunting, for specimens rather than for sport, is described in a delightful way. Antelopes, whose speed was found to be fifty or sixty miles an hour, were hunted from a motor car on the plains. Roeback, big horn sheep and wapti were shot in the mountains during days of thrilling adventure. Wild boar, too, were found in a remote province, while smaller game furnished exciting, if not as dangerous, expeditions.

The ice age of Europe and America was dust age for northeastern Asia, and North China in consequence is spread with loose, brown, wind-blown dust which can be cut like cheese. Life in this region is far different from that of South China, and Mr. Andrews found whole villages of cave dwellers. Nice, well behaved brigands live in the mountains of North China, and Mr. Andrews tells an entertaining tale of a "fight" between the brigands and the soldiers. A "David" soldier armed with cartridges and a bandit "Goliath" armed with silver collars meet and exchange cartridges for dollars until the resources of both are exhausted. The bandits retire with the cartridges they need and the Chinese soldiers return to the city with lugles blowing—and the equivalent of their pay in their pockets, which the government always "forgets" to send them.

The commercial possibilities of Mongolia are outlined also by Mr. Andrews. Even the Gobi desert, he says, could be utilized, in part, as grazing ground and the plains could support vast numbers of cattle. The importance of Unga as a fur market is growing yearly and he sees boundless possibilities in the trade in wolves, bears, sables, lynx, marmots and other animals, which are found in thousands. The mineral wealth of the region is practically untouched and the great forests of spruce offer a valuable supply for aeroplanes. The Middle Ages and the twentieth century flit through the pages of this

And now Gordier is in the field with a supplementary volume, Ser Marco Polo; Notes and Addenda, which contains fresh information derived from the voyages and travels of Sir Aurel Stein, Sven Hedin, Pelliot, Kozlo and others. Old neglected books have also been gone over for scraps of additional value.

So much of the speculation of the fifteenth century as to the shape of the earth and the position of the Indies and China was due to the epochal journey of Marco Polo that any effort to plot that long hike—pardon the modern phrase—must prove of interest. In this book one finds many theories propounded and accepted or rejected, as evidence strengthens or weakens. Major Sykes claimed that Marco Polo entered Persia near Tabriz and then went on via Sultania.

## Peace and Labor

Treaty Clauses Affecting Workers Studied

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF LABOR. By David Hunter Miller. Published by Alfred A. Knopf.

R. MILLER, who was the legal adviser of the American Peace Mission, submits a concise summary of the labor clauses of the Versailles treaty and their practical implications. He shows that the idea of regulating conditions of labor through international agreement had made slow progress before the war. The provisions incorporated in the peace treaty constitute, in his opinion, a radically new departure in this field.

It is provided that an international conference, made up of delegates from the states which are members of the League of Nations, shall be held at least once a year. The representation from each state consists of four delegates, two to be selected by the government, one by the organized employers, one by organized labor. The author reviews the achievements of the first of these conferences, which was held at Washington in the fall of 1919. This conference voted the admission of Germany and Austria as member states, discussed various matters of international labor interest and brought pressure to bear upon backward countries, such as Japan and India, to improve their labor conditions.

The labor clauses of the treaty also set up an international labor office, a permanent body charged with the function of collecting and distributing information about international industrial conditions and examining all questions which may come up for discussion in the conference. Mr. Miller believes that both the conference and the labor office will prove extremely helpful agencies in accelerating the pace of social progress and removing the distrust which the workers of some countries unfortunately feel for their governments and their employers.

## Book Gossip

ONE DAY MORE! the one-act Conrad play which caused so much fevered discussion when it appeared in England last year, will be brought out in this country by Conrad's American publishers (Doubleday, Page & Co.). The English edition published by the Beaumont Press was limited to 250 copies, which were practically never in circulation, for they quickly disappeared into the libraries of the Conrad fans who were fortunate enough to secure these precious volumes. The American edition is also an exclusive one—an addition de luxe, limited to 377 numbered copies. It belongs to the 377 De Luxe Series, which includes Kipling's Feet of the Young Men, O. Henryana and William McFee's Six-Hour Shift.

### Mental Tests for Children

Methods and Results of Testing School Children, by Evelyn Dewey, Emily Child and Beardsley Roml, just published by E. P. Dutton & Co., is a study of marked value in a new and increasingly important field. The purpose of the investigation undertaken by the authors was to throw light upon some of the preliminary problems involved in the establishment of psychological clinics for normal children, and to ascertain the values of mental tests. The book is thus the record of the testing of tests. It is, to quote the subtitle, the Manual of Tests Used by the Psychological Survey in the Public Schools of New York City, including Social and Physical Studies of the Children Tested. Children from half a dozen schools were examined individually under a definite procedure for the conduct of each

## AMONG NEXT WEEK'S REVIEWS

MEMOIRS OF COUNT WITTE. Edited by Abraham Yarmolinsky. RECOLLECTIONS OF A FOREIGN MINISTER. By Alexander Iswolsky.

CREOLE FAMILIES OF NEW ORLEANS. By Grace King.

MY YEARS OF EXILE. By Eduard Bernstein.

THE CRISIS IN RUSSIA. By Arthur Ransome.

STAR-DUST. By Fannie Hurst.

THE GUARDED HEIGHTS. By Wadsworth Camp.

MADAM. By Ethel Sidgwick.

test, and the reports are given with thoroughness and detail. The book's aim and achievement are perhaps best stated in the authors' setting forth of the spirit with which the work was begun: "We believed that mental tests could furnish a technique for individual analysis which would throw light upon the pupil's adjustment to the school and upon the adequacy of school measures for describing the child." The volume is elaborately illustrated with charts, diagrams and pictures.

### Popular Taste in Biography

In 1916 Houghton Mifflin Company brought out two large volumes of the Life of John Marshall, by Senator Beveridge, with the promise of two more soon to follow. The critics were enthusiastic, the books were admired—but would they be bought? The skeptics doubted if the American public was sufficiently interested in so scholarly and caviar a work as to really buy it. But the American public has

bought more than 12,000 sets of John Marshall—surely a record sale!

### The Creator of the Brownies

Palmer Cox, the creator of the famous Brownies, though he has passed the fourscore mark, is still as youthful in spirit as any of the thousands of boys and girls who delight in reading about the gay pranks of these little people. Recently he sent the Century Company, his publishers, a card which he had drawn and colored himself. A smiling Brownie in one corner chuckles over the following bit of verse, entitled "Evening in Brownieland":

"The sun has left the west in pink,  
And stars began to pass the wink,  
And soon the lesser lights grew red;  
Till heaven seemed one carnation bed;  
Old Neptune turned a watery eye  
On lovely Venus, bathing nigh.  
In all he saw through orbits wide,  
Or in imagination spied,  
He never anything had seen  
That so upset the Old Marine."

## Notable New Novels

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